In view of the fact that the Corporation has exceeded the year's planned figure for release of such cylinders, and the fact that the peak LPG demand period of winter has set in, IOC have temporarily restricted the release of DBCs. Release are likely to be resumed in the next few months.

Curtailment of coal stock

*198. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Coal have decided in principle not to allow stocks of coal to exceed one month's requirement and that the maximum stocks has been fixed at 12 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department have asked all coal mines with stocks of 3 to 6 month's production to curtail production and to concentrate on removing excess stocks and in keeping the mines ready for restarting when stocks come down;

(c) if so, how many such mines are there which fail into this category;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the coal companies have been keeping stocks of more than 24 million tonnes and during 1984-85 stocks had reached an unprecedented level of 30 million tonnes;

(e) what was the total cost of these stocks; and

(f) what other steps are being taken to clear all the stocks that are with them?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) With a view to regulating the pithead stocks in collieries under Coal India Limited, the following guidelines have been issued by Government, to coal companies to govern their coal stocking policy.—

(i) Fora subsidiary company as a whole, the company's stock at pithead should be equal to one month's production;

(ii) At each colliery the pithead stocks should not exceed three months' production; and

(iii) Collieries should always carry at their pitheads sufficient stocks to enable them to load timely the available number of wagons.

The Government have directed the coal companies to step up despatches and liquidate the existing heavy stocks, so as to conform to the above policy. In the collieries where evacuation of coal is below the level of production, a programme has been made to regulate production and concentrate on overburden removal till the stocks are reduced. In view of this programme, the annual target of coal production for CIL., for the year 1985-86, has been reduced by the Planning Commission from 137.5 million tonnes to 133.5 million tonnes.

(c) These are 25 collieries which are non-rail linked and are having pithead stocks of more than 3 months' production.

(d) and (e) Coal stocks in CIL collieries as on 1-4-1985 and 1.11.1985 with their approximate value is indicated below:-

Stocks (in million tonnes)		*Value* (estimated) crores
1.4.1985	28.78	507
1.11.1985	18.83	333

(f) Pithend stocks in CIL collieries which were of the order of 28.17 m.t. at the and of 1984-85 have already come down to 18.83 m.t. by 1-11-1985. Concerted efforts are being made to liquidate the accumulated excess coal stocks by stepping up despatches by rail, road and other means. Efforts are also being made to transport coal pitheads stocks from the non-rail linked collieries to the nearest rail-heads for despatches by rail wherever possible. A number of collieries have also been put on Liberalised sale by road.